



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

April 18, 2005

# News Release

## **ICE DEPORTS 80 NIGERIAN IMMIGRATION VIOLATORS**

*Flight includes 63 criminals, including man from oath of allegiance case*

NIAGARA FALLS, New York-- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement announced today that 80 citizens of Nigeria were deported Friday, including 63 felons with convictions that ranged from rape, robbery and aggravated assault to drug dealing, burglary, forged documents, fraud, and credit card theft.

Also included on the deportation flight was criminal alien Celestine Ifeanchi Okafor, a native and citizen of Nigeria who contended he could not be deported because he was a United States citizen despite failing to participate in the required public oath of allegiance ceremony.

Ultimately, the Attorney General of the United States reaffirmed that taking the oath of allegiance to the United States at a public ceremony or before a court is required except in certain circumstances such as when an applicant is permanently incapacitated or disabled, clearing the way for Okafor's deportation.

The aliens were deported from the United States aboard a government flight, and they were escorted by detention and removal officers and medical personnel.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*